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U.S. Serial No. 10/533,766
Docket No. 26281-09A

Examiner: Constance B. Salters
Art Unit: 3609

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of producing a vehicle upholstery member having an air bag door equipped with a fabricated skin, comprising the following steps (A) to (C) in order:

(A) substantially flatly mounting the skin on a support base;

(B) forming a break-scheduled line that is not so deep as to reach the surface of the skin with a cutting blade; and

(C) measuring the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion with the incision of the break-scheduled line opened, wherein a protrusion arranged in the support base is moved up to a given height and pressed upward against the skin to thereby open the incision of the break-scheduled line.

8. (Original) The method of producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 7, wherein the skin is aspirated from the back surface side and fixed on the support base.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 7, wherein, at the step (B), the break-scheduled line is formed while detecting the altitude of the cutting blade.

11. (Previously presented) The method of producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 7, further comprising the step of detecting the state of the cutting blade prior to the step (B).

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12. (Previously presented) The method of producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 7, wherein, at the step (C), the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion is measured with an optical film thickness measurement device.

13. (Currently amended) A method of producing a vehicle upholstery member having an air bag door equipped with a fabricated skin, comprising the following steps (a) to (c):

(a) partially or entirely bending the skin with its back surface convexed, wherein the skin is mounted on a substrate and pressed with a protrusion arranged in the substrate for bending the skin with its back surface convexed and the protrusion is moved up and pressed upward against the skin;

(b) forming a break-scheduled line that is not so deep as to reach the surface of the skin with a cutting blade; and

(c) measuring the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion with the incision of the break-scheduled line opened.

Claims 14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A device for producing a vehicle upholstery member having an air bag door equipped with a fabricated skin, comprising:

a support base for substantially flatly mounting the skin thereon equipped with a protrusion for upward pressing the skin;

a cutting blade for forming a break-scheduled line in the skin; and

measuring means for measuring the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion,

wherein the protrusion is moved up to a given height and pressed upward against the skin, and

wherein the measuring means is used to measure the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion, with the incision of the break-scheduled line opened.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The device for producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 16, wherein the protrusion is constructed of one or more linear object(s) and a linear object or a curved object vertically or diagonally intersecting the one or more linear object(s).

19. (Previously presented) The device for producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 16, further comprising position-detecting means for detecting the altitude of the cutting blade.

20. (Previously presented) The device for producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 16, further comprising state-detecting means for detecting the state of the cutting blade.

21. (Previously presented) The device for producing the vehicle upholstery member having the air bag door according to claim 16, wherein the support base is provided with a suction portion for fixing the skin therein.

22. (New) A method of producing a vehicle upholstery member having an air bag door equipped with a fabricated skin, comprising the following steps (a) to (c):

- (a) partially or entirely bending the skin with its back surface convexed by mounting the skin on a substrate having a protrusion arranged on the surface of the substrate;
- (b) forming a break-scheduled line that is not so deep as to reach the surface of the skin with a cutting blade; and
- (c) measuring the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion with the incision of the break-scheduled line opened by bending the skin.

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23. (New) A device for producing a vehicle upholstery member having an air bag door equipped with a fabricated skin, comprising:

a support base for substantially flatly mounting the skin thereon having a protrusion arranged on the surface of the support base for bending a formation place of the break-scheduled line of the skin with its back surface convexed;

a cutting blade for forming a break-scheduled line in the skin; and

measuring means for measuring the depth of the break-scheduled line or the thickness of the remaining portion, with the incision of the break-scheduled line opened by bending the skin.